

08/08/2018

Whatcom County Council

RE; Extend Permit Moratorium

Good evening Council Members,

My name is Dirk Vermeeren; as residents of Whatcom County, once again we stand before you urging you to extend the current moratorium on permits for unrefined fossil fuel export projects and expansions.

As you are aware, events since the spring of this year are all signs warning us of our changing environment. High temperatures impact our forest and rivers, while reduced salmon runs endanger our few remaining Orcas.

Federal Govt. regulating agencies shirking their responsibilities increasingly demand that we on a local level must be prepared to take a pro active role in preserving our precious lifestyle.

Unmonitored industrial growth will have long-term negative impacts on the residents of Whatcom County. Projected increased shipments of coal and oil from Salish Sea terminals will further deteriorate the waters that are home to a number of endangered species our state economies rely on for generating income.

You as our representatives are empowered to take the lead and implement a long-term vision with policies that benefit *all constituents*.

We support your actions to preserve and improve our current environment. We ask that you draft & implement policies that protect our natural resources from industry expansions where short-term financial gains for a select group of non-local shareholders are preferred over long term risks to your Constituents.

Thank you.
Dirk & Kathy Vermeeren
Bellingham, WA

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